

**How do laboratory certification
and improvement programs
protect Kansas citizens?**

Laboratory improvements specialists perform certification site visits at more than 2000 health, environmental and breath alcohol testing organizations throughout the state. This enforcement and training effort ensures the quality of laboratory data which touches the lives of each Kansas citizen

**How can I obtain information
form or visit the state public
health laboratory?**

The leadership of the state public health laboratory is always available to provide assistance and information. The laboratory is not open to the public due to constraints of laboratory safety; however, planned visits to the state laboratory can be arranged upon request.

State of Kansas



Kansas Department of Health and Environment
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**DIVISION OF
HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
LABORATORIES**



DHEL

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What is the mission of the state public health laboratory?

Our mission is to provide timely and accurate analytical information for public health benefit in Kansas and to assure the quality of statewide laboratory services through certification and improvement programs.

Where is the laboratory located?

When the Kansas Department of Health and Environment was established by legislative action in 1974, the combined health and environmental laboratory was located in the Forbes Field complex south of Topeka.

What is the analytical productivity of the laboratory?

DHEL receives about a quarter of a million samples and specimen each year. Almost one million test results are reported annually.

How can samples be submitted to the state public health laboratory for analyses?

DHEL is a specialized laboratory which accepts samples and specimens associated with current public health priorities in disease control and environmental monitoring. Considerable effort is made to avoid competition with private sector or other state laboratories. Complete information about proper sample collection and submission can be obtained from our web site at www.kdhe.state.ks.us or by contacting the laboratory at (785) 296-1620.

When was the laboratory established and how does it operate?

The first biological and chemical analyses were performed at the Kansas Board of Health in 1886. Environmental laboratory analyses of waters and wastewaters began in 1907. The laboratory has a staff of over 80 scientific and support positions and operates on an annual budget of approximately five million dollars.

How is the quality of the laboratory test results assured?

Health and environmental analytical operations are performed in accordance with rigid scientific standards. The laboratory is inspected and approved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is certified under the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA). The laboratory is also part of the National Laboratory Response Network (LRN) and Food Emergency Response Network (FERN).

How do laboratory test results improve health and protect the Kansas environment?

Laboratory information is used to diagnose and prevent diseases of public health significance ranging from AIDS to child hood lead poisoning. Laboratory surveillance information also guards the safety of public drinking waters as well as ambient air and water quality.